



MERCY BENEATH THE WAVES.

"WHEN MY LIFE WAS FAINTING AWAY,
I REMEMBERED THE LORD...
AND THE LORD SPOKE TO THE FISH,
AND IT VOMITED JONAH OUT UPON THE DRY LAND."

JONAH 2:7, 10

JONAH & MERCY.

Have you ever ignored one of God's commands? Ran away from it?

Jonah heard God's word. God told him to go to Ninevah, but he ran in the opposite direction.

We are going to read about God's mercy in this passage today. Mercy for Jonah, a man who has done the opposite of what God has asked. And we are going to apply it to us-people in need of God's mercy.

MERCY BENEATH WAVES.

Mercy is God's pity moved to action. We serve a God who takes pity, shows compassion to undeserving people-so much so that he acts on their behalf. We've all had brushes with God's mercy, but maybe you haven't recognized it? Consider Jonah's story and consider your story.

1. God actively ordains the consequences to your sin. (vv. 1:17-2:3)

Jonah 1:17 - "And the LORD **appointed** a great fish to swallow Jonah..."

Jonah 2:3 - "**You** cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all **your** waves and **your** billows passed over me."

→ Earthly consequences are evidence of God's mercy.

2. It is merciful for God to put you in a place where you can't save yourself. (vv. 4-6a)

Jonah 2:5 - "The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head."

→ Have you ever found yourself at the end of your rope? Locked the keys in the car.

3. It's never too late to call out to God for help. (vv. 6b-7)

Jonah 2:6-7 - "I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you..."

→ You're not too far gone.

→ Mercy leads you to depend upon God.

4. Salvation belongs to the LORD. (vv. 8-10)

Jonah 2:9b-10 - "'Salvation belongs to the LORD!' And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land."

AIM FOR THE HEART.

1. To the one who is running from God's voice: turn and receive God's merciful judgement.
2. To the one at the end of your rope, find rest in this: you're as needy as you feel, but God can help.
3. To the one who has called out to God, but is still in the belly of the fish: his hand won't fail.
4. To the one who has received mercy: show mercy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

1. Can you think of a time when someone saw you struggling and chose to show you kindness?
2. Have you ever experienced God's merciful judgement? When and why?
3. Have you ever had a moment where you thought to yourself, "If God doesn't come through, I'm doomed."? Talk about that.
4. Have you placed your faith in Christ?